

Industrial Worker

MARCH 1999

#1619, vol. 96 no. 3 \$1.00/75 p

EDUCATION

ORGANIZATION

EMANCIPATION

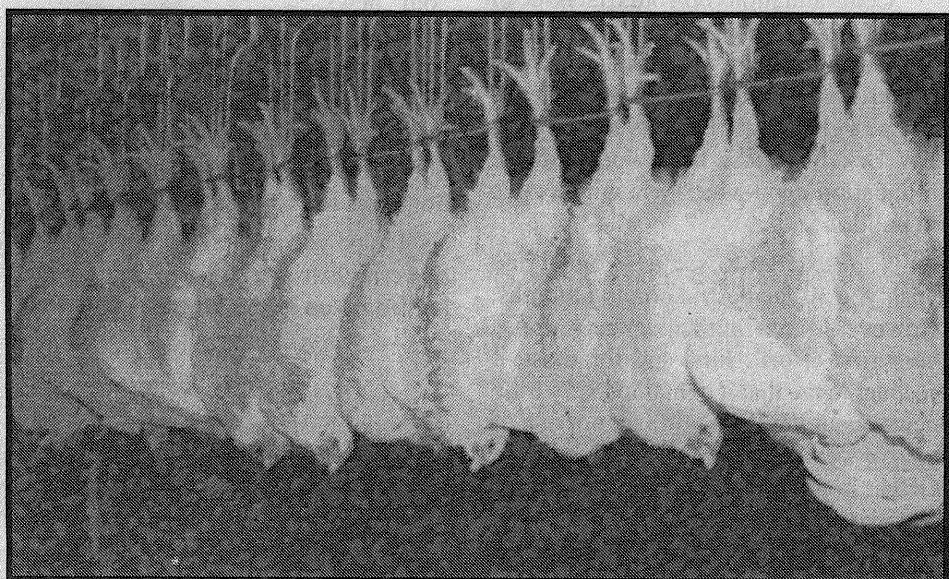


photo by Karen Davies

Tyson Guts Workers' Rights

More than 250 members of Local 227 of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) at the Tyson Foods processing plant in Corydon, IN went on strike Sunday, January 3 and put up picket lines. The decision was made to fight Tyson after a meeting in which discussion over working conditions and numerous proposed "takeaways" by the company left workers angry and committed to preserving their dignity and a decent standard of living. Workers refused to accept management's pressure to eliminate paid breaks, to reduce medical leave, to reduce vacation leave and to increase the employee cost of health insurance by 60% with no cap on future increases, among other concessions. When Tyson also refused to discuss the union's safety concerns, including the right of workers to not be forced to process contaminated chicken carcasses (bodies that showed signs of disease or that had fallen on the floor), or to package, label or box pre-processed bodies with dates that exceed those allowed by law; workers took their story to the public and to Tyson's stockholders.

Tyson is the largest poultry producer in the U.S. and the world. The Corydon plant alone processes more than 600,000 chickens a week, or over 2,000 birds per worker per week. At a time when Tyson is reported to have made over \$7.5 billion in sales and \$345 million in operating profit, workers make an average of \$7.68 per hour.

Poultry workers suffer from the same gruesome environment as the chickens they grow and process. It was reported in the Poultry Growers News in August, 1998, that in some of the Tyson poultry plants the temperatures reached into the 100's for six consecutive weeks and caused the (premature) death of 16,000 chickens. When the chickens are dying of heat stroke, the workers are suffering as well.

In most plants, chickens are kept in crates for the 49 days they are "grown". The racks are stacked one on top of another. This means that the birds in the top rack piss and shit on the birds in the next

continued on page 6

Wobblies Battle For Justice in Peltier Case

Members of the Industrial Workers of the World and thousands of others across the country and the world have launched a concerted campaign of rallies and other actions to win much needed medical treatment for Leonard Peltier, the Ojibwa-Lakota American Indian Movement activist and political prisoner. In addition, activists are calling for Peltier's freedom through Executive Clemency and Congressional hearings.

Two IWW members, Arthur Miller and Dale Pfeiffer, began a hunger strike on February 6, 1999, in order to mobilize support for the campaign for medical treatment for Peltier. There are now 67 people who have joined the fast across the United States and in Canada, France, Basque Country, Russia, Ireland, Spain and Italy. The hunger strike will continue until Peltier receives the medical treatment he needs.

Also on February 6th, Wobblies marched and otherwise demonstrated across the country. According to IWW member Barbara Sands, there were Buddhist drummers in Albany. Dale Pfeiffer describes a Prayer Circle in Pontiac. In downtown Tacoma, IWW members marched from the Puyallup Nation Tribal Grounds to the Federal Court House. In Boston, Wobblies united the issues of Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal, with the death penalty and sanctions in Iraq. In Washington, IWW members and others had a carnival with puppets. According to a report from Chuck O., one puppet "showed the big bad FBI controlling a media marionette. Another puppet portrayed a large penis to show what 'dicks' the FBI were concerning Peltier's case. Finally, a large bald eagle represented Leonard Peltier and spirit to breathe free. On several occasions, the eagle chased the FBI puppets." Wobblies also participated in events in San Francisco, San

Diego, Milwaukee, Baltimore, Chicago, Atlanta, Lawrence, and Louisville.

Leonard Peltier is an Ojibwa-Lakota, American Indian Movement (AIM) activist who was framed on murder charges in the deaths of two FBI agents in a fire fight on the Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota Reservation in South Dakota. The first two AIM members to go on trial were found not guilty by reason of self-defense. Leonard was extradited from Canada based on false documents given to the Canadian court. The US government transferred Leonard's trial from the original judge to a handpicked judge who would not allow self-defense evidence or evidence of the government's illegal use of false documents and other abuses. To guarantee Leonard's conviction, the government fabricated ballistics reports and coerced witnesses into giving false testimony. For example, one potential witness was warned by an FBI agent that she would be dead within a year. She was found shot to death on the Pine Ridge reservation in February 1976. Another witness who ultimately implicated Peltier later claimed that she had given her statement under threat of bodily harm.¹

Peltier was convicted of the murders of the FBI agents and sentenced to two life sentences. The evidence against Peltier was scant. The U.S. Prosecutor in the case, Lynn Crooks, has stated that there is no evidence directly connecting Peltier to the deaths of the agents. The only evidence they have is that he was there that day, thus in their minds he is guilty of "aiding and abetting." Since the first two AIM members were found not guilty for reason of self-defense, this means that Leonard has been locked up for 23 years for "aiding and abetting" an act of self defense.

continued on page 6

INS Workplace Raids Shut Down Organizing

If Expedited Removal existed when Christopher Columbus landed in the New World, he would have been hustled back to his boats in direct violation of his due process rights.

History, from the 1790's onward, shows when the U.S. needs labor, its borders open. When the U.S. doesn't need labor, the borders close down. In the mid 1800's, many Chinese came to the U.S. and provided much needed labor for infrastructure, railroads and water levees. As soon as the bosses had what they needed, the Chinese were blacklisted. By the time of the economic recession of the 1870's, numerous groups were fighting for the removal of Chinese people, including labor unions, the general populace and politicians. The Workingman's Party Manifesto of 1876 even stated that "Treason is better than to labor beside a Chinese slave." In 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed, virtually halting Chinese immigration.

The next 30 years brought more exclusionary legislation, including the banning of the admission of contract laborers in 1885, and the first provisions in 1888 since 1798 provided for the expulsion of immigrants. The laws of exclusion ex-

panded to include political radicals, illiterates, persons of psychopathic inferiority, alcoholics, and vagrants. Head taxes for persons with physical and mental defects were imposed and the restriction of Japanese immigrants began.

The Chinese Exclusion Act was eventually repealed in 1943 when the "Bracero Program" was started. This program provided for the importation of agricultural workers from North, South and Central America. In the following years quota systems were instituted, changed repealed and instituted again. People were wel-

comed into the nation, then turned away a few years later, once again demonstrating the impact of labor needs on immigration legislation.

Too Many Raids

Working and living conditions around the world are deplorable at best. Economics are in shambles, natural disasters destroy livelihoods, governments act with impunity against laborers and poor farmers, and the World Bank wreaks havoc on poor country's finances, keeping them

continued on page 8



In This Issue...

Pirate Radio: The Importance Of Freedom

Duke Students: Office Takeover

Ford Blows

Chatham Scabs Run In Terror



INDUSTRIAL WORKER
103 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

ISSN 0019-8870



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Hi There,

Seems like there is plenty of new developments in Poland. We have one direct action scheduled this weekend in Warsaw. Next weekend we are going to Cracow where we will be join forces with local Wobblies and other militants to distribute food to the homeless and picket another charity ball.

It is not that charity balls become a kind of our specialty - it is really pure coincidence there are two different events in subsequent weekends.

We appeared in court on Tuesday to register IWW nationally. I am sad to say we have not succeeded. The judge turned us down on the grounds the constitution we submitted was 'too detailed, too complicated and partly in breach with the Trade Union Act. " Well, maybe that is true to some extent. But, the judge did not do her homework either. She was reading the constitution in the court room in front of us probably for the first time. She became clearly irritated when she realized it was 40 pages of text. The name of IWW also seemed suspicious and unclear to her. She also ridiculed the idea of referendum as mode of decision making within the union.

Readers' Soapbox

You can imagine how frustrated we were. But after we thought it over a few times, we concluded that she is just not used to the idea of union democracy. This judge is the one who deals mainly with registration of trade unions, societies and other organizations. We reckon she was initially taken by surprise by our constitution and expected we were some sad bunch of twisted freaks. Later on after we had some really good arguments about certain paragraphs in the constitution, she came to think of us better.

We will have another go on March 09. If only we had a lawyer to consult. But that is something we will not be able to afford for some time. So we just give it our "best" shot, rewrite the paperwork, file it next week and hope for the best.

Solidarity,
Hubert Karwacki

Man, It's great to know you're still around! Worked in River NY 1938 +, carried the red card.

Clif B.

Fellow Workers:

Congratulations on your first issue of the *Industrial Worker*. I thought you did a good job putting your first paper together, and getting it out on time. Of course a great deal of thanks should go to FW Bekken whose hard work laid the foundation upon which you will be able to build.

I am excited to see new blood and wish you all the best in coming months. However, I can not universally praise your first effort. First and foremost, it seemed to me that it contained very little news about the IWW. In fact not one of your cover stories even mentioned the OBU. In part, the reason for the lack of coverage of events within the union may be due to the fact that you have yet to develop a system of getting information from the various branches, but that is part of the job... to report the news you have to go out and get the news.

Second, it seemed that the articles were overlong and took up too much space; especially when you consider that most were not about breaking news, but were

updates of old stories. I stand firmly in Solidarity with the Detroit Strikers, Leonard Peltier, Judi Bari, Mumia, and Canadian Telephone Operators... and want updates on their situations. I do not, however need a whole paper devoted to "old" news.

Third, I need to know who is responsible for the Detroit Collective... I really think you need to let us know who is involved in setting editorial direction. Someone has to make the hard decisions. Someone has to be accountable.

I hope you will take this as constructive criticism and I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

In Solidarity,
M.E. Damron

Editors' Response:

FW Damron, thank you for your input on the first IW put together by the new Detroit Collective. The projects revolving around Judi Bari and Leonard Peltier are officially IWW issues, that is the reason they were included therein. We have listened to criticism on the issue of article length, and have taken this into account. We encourage GMB's to send us stories on labor and class war activities in their area. We all accept accountability for our collective work. (Resistance is Futile).

IU 120: Lumber Workers
IU 330: Building Construction Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
IU 560: Communications Workers
IU 610: Health Service Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 640: Restaurant & Hotel Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM

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Printed by union labor

Web: <http://parsons.iww.org/~iw/>

Official monthly publication of
the Industrial Workers of the
World.

ISSN 0019-8870 Periodicals
Postage Paid Ypsilanti MI &
other mailing offices.

Postmaster: send address
changes to Industrial Worker,
103 West Michigan,
Ypsilanti MI 48197.

Individual Subscriptions \$15
Library Subscriptions \$20/year
(Member sub included in dues)
Articles not so designated do not
represent the official position of the
IWW. Donations welcome.

Press Date: Feb. 16, 1999

Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace; GMB=General Membership Branch; IU=Industrial Union; Del=Delegate; GOC=Organizing Committee.

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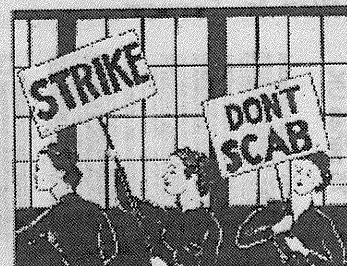
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WYOMING

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Finland

Members of the Finnish group Solidaarisuus have unanimously voted to affiliate with the Industrial Workers of the World in a recent referendum. Solidaarisuus is an autonomous and syndicalist Finnish movement that operates in the main cities of the country. The principle objectives of Solidaarisuus are self-management in the workplace and in life, and the equal division of the social wealth produced, through among other things, the salary of citizenship and social services guaranteed and free. Solidaarisuus has acquired national relevance for organizing many demonstrations in December of last year that saw the participation of thousands of people, which is big for a country so small.

Poland

It has been 10 days now since FW Rafal Kaminiski's contract was terminated by Volfrall Co. in Warsaw. He was the only one to go, and this leads us to the conclusion that management was prompted by his continuous attempts aimed at improving overall working conditions, forcing the employer to pay wages on time, and most of all agitating for the One Big Union.

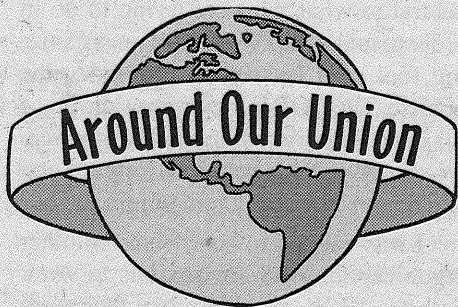
The Polish IWW has supported FW Kaminiski in his struggle initially calling attention of all the relevant government agencies. Volvra is employing mainly the disabled and because of that, enjoys a special legal status of a privileged company eligible for fat tax benefits. Volfra management is using every opportunity to scam the system meant to support the

disabled depriving them of their share of government money. Most of the disabled end up with less than minimum pay, and often they do not even have to show up at work at all. The building does not have any special facilities for the disabled anyway.

Hubert Karwack

East Bay IWW

The East Bay IWW endorsed a petition calling for an end to sweetheart deals between the city of San Francisco and the Fisher Family of Gap, Inc. because, in the words of the petition, the Gap is guilty of "gross corporate irresponsibility" because of its: exploitation of needleworkers in the Northern Mariana Islands; the Fisher Family's ongoing devastation of redwood forests in Mendocino County; Gap's selling of candles containing lead-cored wicks; their exploitations of workers in Saipan where the workers are forced to pay exorbitant recruitment fees to get the jobs, and then must work as much as 12 hours a day, seven days a week to try to repay their debts.



Wobs Battle For Peltier

continued from page 1

Waabnong Kwe spoke at the Peltier rally in Toronto Canada. She is a 46 year old Grandmother living with aids and a member of the Wolf Clan. She explained her decision to go on a three day fast for Peltier. "My brother, Leonard Peltier is dying. . . . Would I stand by and watch another brother drown, knowing I could reach out and perhaps save his life? Of course not! Nor can I sit back and do nothing to help Leonard."

This campaign was touched off because Peltier is suffering from complications from a previous maxilla facial surgery. The Bureau of Prisons has refused to let him be treated for a condition that is causing him great pain. Dr. Keller at the

Mayo Clinic has agreed to treat him, but the BOP consistently refuses. Please send e-mails to: Kathleen Hawk, Director, Bureau of Prisons at: e-mail: khawk@bop.gov or swolfson@bop.gov, or write to her at: 320 First St. NW, Wash.

Much of the information in this article was taken from statements by the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and the Northwest Leonard Peltier Support Group as well as reports from IWW members and Phillis Engelbert. Contact the Peltier Defense Committee at PO Box 583-Lawrence, KS 66044-785-8442-5774; Fax-785-842-5796; lpdc@idir.net.

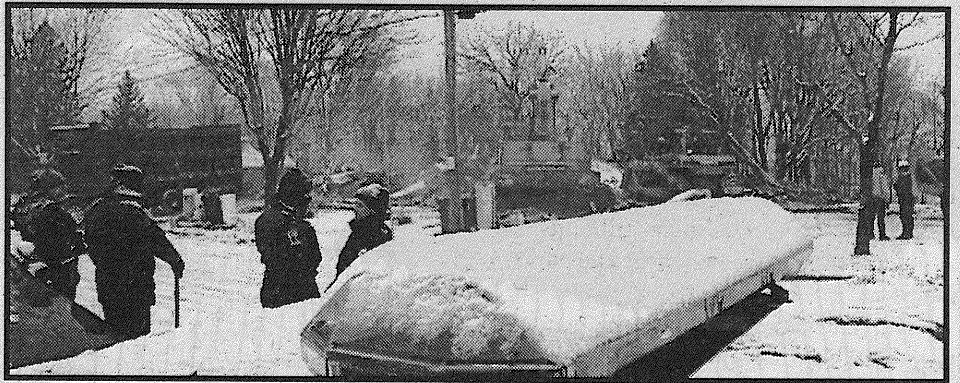
PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.** The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.



Twin Cities IWW

Since August 10th, 1998, IWW members in Minneapolis-St. Paul have assisted with the nonviolent occupation of condemned houses and parkland to stop the reroute of U.S. Highway 55 through Minnehaha Park. Members of the Mendota Medewakanton Dakota Community, the American Indian Movement and Big Woods Earth First! began the encampment to protect rare oak savanna, affordable housing and sacred Native American sites in the path of the highway. An occupied city block was declared the "Minnehaha Free State" in defiance of the state's plans to destroy historic sites that are working people's common property.

The area includes four old oak trees that mark a burial site, and an ancient artesian spring, Camp Coldwater, that was surrounded by a Dakota village when nearby Fort Snelling was built in the mid-18th century. The spring later became the water supply for the fort and local settlement, and has been called the "birthplace of Minnesota". The efforts of activists to protect Native sites brought support from the local community and indigenous people's organizations worldwide. Some construction workers who visited the Free State told activists they'd quit rather than help demolish the area.

On the morning of December 20th, 1998, 600 police equipped with helicop-

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BUILDING THE BOLD NEW O.B.U.:

A look at rebuilding industrial union branches by John Persak, 1999 GEB Member

Wobs in the 1990's are faced with an important choice; do we continue to organize and define ourselves in the labor movement as the labor arm of single issue political campaigns, or do we continue to move forward with the arduous task of rebuilding industrial unions? This is a question that has faced us as members since the 1960's when the ideas of class consciousness had been stripped from the labor movement by the McCarthy era a decade before, and these ideas were only expressed from academics. As employers become more ruthless in their drive to balance their portfolios on our backs, workers everywhere are taking a look at unionism as they were during the days when the IWW was very influential and respected in the labor movement; they look at the IWW and see an organization struggling with its past, its identity, and its direction. Many have joined up in hopes of applying their experience into rebuilding the OBU into a powerful force again. But the question has not been answered loudly; are we or are we not a union for workers?

The preamble at the beginning of our constitution lays out a basic explanation of the conditions presented to us, which are largely accurate in spite of the dated jargon, and give us a strategy for organizing so that we may all be collectively self employed. What was done in the past in attempting to bring these ideas into practical realization, to build the union into something the employers feared and had to reckon with? How did the wobs organize and build their unions and win their demands? Many IWW branches now are looking at

ters, riot gear, assault rifles and tear gas invaded the camp, arresting 38 people (including 3 Wobblies). A sacred drum was destroyed and ceremonial lodges were dismantled and seized. Several activists reported being beaten, kicked and maced, and pepper gel was rubbed in the eyes of those who had locked down to resist being moved. The block was bulldozed immediately thereafter, destroying flower beds, vegetable gardens and the Dakotas' sacred fire.

Charges were eventually dropped on all but 7 people (including one Wob), who face charges of Obstructing Legal Process and will be tried May 17th. A judge has since ordered mediation and a full archeological survey of the sites to resolve a lawsuit filed by activists against the highway project. A bill has been introduced in the Minnesota legislature to declare Camp Coldwater a protected area. Meanwhile, the encampment has moved one block south of the demolished houses to the area of the sacred trees, where activists are prepared for direct action to stop further destruction.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul IWW has begun outreach to Twin Cities unions to gain labor's help in stopping the reroute. Contact the MSP IWW to show your support.

Sam Adams x345872

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

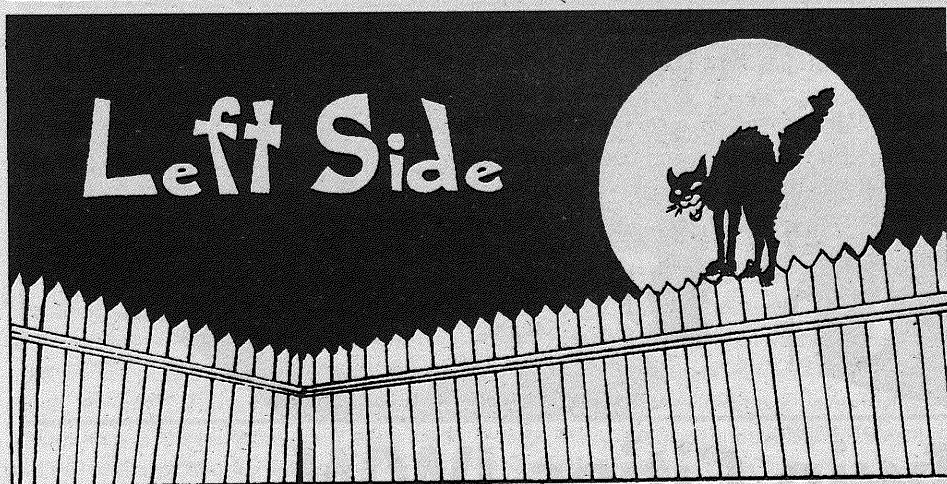
these questions closely, and some are experimenting with answers that are found in the minute of local meetings and conventions, and in the old newspapers. This process has helped along a trend of change in the IWW toward what the union looked like before the 1950's when we still had large shops. With change, there is opposition of course, and many wobs have had to struggle with internal differences over the future of the OBU.

On the Job

The revival of on the job organizing has brought some of the old tactics and ideas to light, and it has forced us to reexamine the tactics to a changed industrial landscape. The passage of the Wagner Act, and subsequent antilabor legislation and case law has tilted the favor toward pro-capitalist unions, giving official sanction to the selling out of hard won gains over the last 30 years. The leftover dregs of McCarthyism is still in the history books and in the minds of middle aged workers, making the selling of a radical sort of unionism more difficult than when to be a red was accepted and quite common. These difficulties have been overcome to some extent as the IWW refocuses where it originated and where it belongs; on the job, at the point of production, building a union to secure practical demands and build democracy on the job.

Various attempts to organize on the job under the banner of the IWW have so far not resulted in many union shops. What is has given us is a firsthand look from a radical perspective the problems with organizing in the 1990's, both in building our experience and reassessing our organizational weak-

continued on page 10



Left Side

Good old Ronnie Reagan was an object lesson to all of us if for no other reason than it takes no talent to be a head of state. That goes for heads of state anywhere in this planet of ours. Heads of state are nothing more than window dressing to divert our attention from those who really control our lives. Competence is not a requirement as long as they do the bidding of those who have the actual control over our economic and social lives.

This is not to say that it takes no small talent to be a competent politician. A good politician must be a first class entertainer no matter how hammy an actor he or she may be. But like all entertainers, they too are human and as such may have their inadequacies. While an entertaining politician can blow a mean saxophone, he may not have the presence of mind to say that what he does on his own or company time have any relation to how he runs the country or if any of his extra curricular activities is anyone else's damn business. After all, barring having been denatured at birth, most of those in high places having indulged themselves in their peccadillos without getting their derrieres in hot water.

Instead of being probed about his libidinous proclivities, he was never questioned about the lives wasted in Panama or Iraq under his stewardship or how does he permit jobsites to relocate in other parts of the World where the price of slaves are cheaper, resulting in the deteriorating economy in the territory over which he has been granted stewardship.

Your scribe, being of a most cynical nature when it comes to politicians, is of a suspicious mind that the inquisition being endured by our top banana is but a clever side show being put on to distract our attention from those aforementioned problems and that Willie-Jeff is a willing participant, himself. Freedomland, having been rooted in Puritanism, is still for all practical purposes a puritan society, and it is in a puritan society where both hard and soft-core pornography flourishes.

However, there seems to be ray of hope insofar as many of our fellow citizens seem to be wearying of this circus. In other parts of the Globe, the current fuss in Freedomland has become a big joke.

One old wag in the past century said, "If elections changed anything they would be made illegal." Some Fellow Workers of ours, a generation ago, coined the phrase, "Don't vote. It only encourages them!"

We are now coming to the conclusion of both a century as well as a millennium, and we still have not come to the conclusion that regardless of what variety of heads of state that we may have, there will be no basic change in our lives as long as those who are in power remain in power. There are those of us who have the illusion of choosing our heads of state, and there are those of us who are relieved of that illusion. Heads of state are nothing more than camouflage for those who hold the money bags. The state exists for no other reason than to protect the robbers from the robbed. The realization is frightening that the lives of upwards of five billion of us are in the hands of considerably fewer than a million, perhaps only a few thousand.

It is the labor of the billions of us that has given that minuscule segment of our species their positions of power, merely because the billions of us remain unorganized. The word "Democracy" has come to us from the classic Greeks, but there will not be true democracy until we have control over our own lives and that means control over our own jobs. Face it, society is regulated from the point of production and as long as the point of production is in the hands of a few, a few are going to determine our lives. It is time that the many take control of the machinery of production, so we may carry out the logical process of evolution.

There is the old adage that it takes a stupid bird to crap in one's own nest. It is incumbent upon our kind to be at least as intelligent as the birds.

C.C. Redcloud

REMEMBERING OUR HISTORY

During the summer of 1913, E.C. Durst's enormous hop ranch near Wheatland, California was the state's largest single employer of agricultural labor. Durst advertised extensively for harvest workers promising abundant work at good wages. By the time the hop harvest began, 2,800 person, many of them whole families, were camped on Durst's property where they found conditions to be the opposite of what had been described. Durst had deliberately brought in more workers than he needed to depress wages. In addition, harvesters were forced to pay inflated prices for shelter, food and other necessities. Unsanitary working conditions and scorching heat added to the workers' misery.

Within days the harvesters began to organize themselves, turning to Wobblies among them for leadership, particularly Richard "Blackie" Ford. Durst met demands for improved conditions by calling out the law. On August 3rd the local sheriff, the district attorney and deputies arrived to break up a mass meeting and arrest the leaders. In the conflict that followed, four person, the sheriff, district attorney and two harvesters died. Ford and fellow Wobbly Herman D. Suhr were arrested and held responsible for the deaths even though they had had no part in the violence. Like so many before and after, Ford and Sahr would spend 15 years in jail for the "crime" of organizing against workplace injustice.

This photograph of hop pickers on the Durst ranch was probably taken on August 2nd, the day before the violence.

Thomas Featherstone—Reuther Library, Detroit

Get 'em, Sabo-Kitty!

Duke & Georgetown University Students Against Sweatshops
For taking action instead of sitting comfy in the cafeteria

"It's not enough to pay the minimum wage in these countries because the minimum wage is often set very low to attract investment and often is not adequate to meet the nutritional needs of workers' families." **Ben Smith**

"The argument that full disclosure would release competitive information is just an excuse to cover up widespread human rights violations. We're just asking for the release of addresses, not competitive secrets." **Sara Jewett**

for more information see page 12



Welcome to our second issue of the IW. We hope that folks recognize the fact that we have taken into account the criticisms and comments that we got on the first issue and are beginning to develop our own distinctive style. You will notice more changes as we go on, but we will always be listening for feedback from the membership and will use that as a guide. We are your paper, after all.

One comment we received (from F.W. Tuli Kupfenburg) was that we had broadened the perspective of the paper. This is central to what we were trying to do in order to make the IW more of an organizing tool, and less of an internal gripe vehicle. The GOB is the appropriate place for dirty laundry, while the IW is where we should put our best foot forward and extend our hand to others to join us.

I was excited to hear from the other organizations who are anxious to work with the IWW, now that they feel more welcomed. Jobs With Justice, Earth First!, Native Forest Network, Students Against Sweatshops, Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, the School of the Americas Watch, and striking Detroit Newspaper workers are just a few of the folks we have been in contact with for this issue.

I had hoped to include an article promoting the upcoming action at the pentagon on May 1, but we were pretty full this month. So, a short mention will have to do. The School of the Americas Watch, an organization dedicated to the closing of the U.S.-run training center for assassins and military goons in Fort Benning, GA has called for an action because the funding for the school is up for renewal. As one of the 2,319 folks who crossed the line onto the base in November (and there were F.W.'s there from GA that I met during the action), I made a commitment to doing whatever it took to shut down this abomination. I am planning to go to D.C. on May 1st, and to bring our Detroit IWW banner. Many people are unaware, but one of the primary targets of the intimidation tactics of School of Assassins' graduates are labor activists. As we

crossed arm in arm over the entrance to the base in November, a speaker read the names of those tortured and killed by the goon squads. The names of prominent trade unionists were listed amongst the many men, women and children murdered to kill the spirit of resistance. The military in third world countries (trained in the U.S.) are well aware of the threat that a workers' movement poses.

The IWW has many members, like me, who are also part of other movements. It has been a powerful thing to be able to discuss with other groups the vision of a worker-directed, worker-controlled society in harmony with the Earth as the basic premise for all positive social change. Anti-war groups recognize that if workers chose what they produced, that they would build baby buggies instead of bombs. Environmental groups realize that if workers controlled production, they

Editor's Notebook

would choose to produce nontoxic goods in an Earth-friendly manner. And who would willingly choose the insanity of nuclear power over renewable, natural sources unless driven by capital and greed? People understand this and that is why the IWW's message is so important to get out, not just to labor groups but to all those working for a better world.

I have been an activist for 20 years in peace, social change, native sovereignty, environmental and animal rights organizations, and a working mom for 12, though my work with the IWW has only begun in the past few years. I am enthusiastic about the union and the paper, and hope to play a role in bridging the distance between the IWW and many other groups. Together, we will be strong enough to make our dreams reality.

For Earth & everything with a heartbeat, Solidarity,

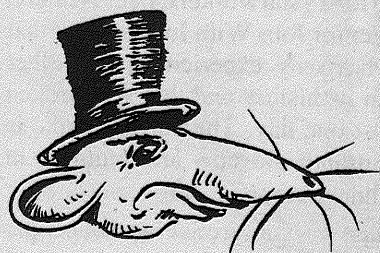
Marie Mason



One For The Rat Trap

**U.S. District Judge Joe Kendall
on the Allied Pilots Association and American Airlines Pilots**

"Unfortunately, the radical element that seems to be in control of the Allied Pilots Association seems determined to fly American Airlines into the side of a mountain, taking themselves, the company, their co-workers and their customers with them."



"No one can make someone go fly an airplane, particularly if someone is dishonest and willing to lie and say they are sick when they really aren't. But what a federal judge can do—and what I will do—is make people pay for what they break."

Strikes & the Law: III

For union workers who are working under a contract, the right to strike is often negotiated away in a no-strike clause. Language might read like this: During the term of this agreement, the Union guarantees the Employer that it will not support, condone, authorize, or otherwise encourage a strike, work stoppage, or other concerted interference with normal operations at the workplace. No-strike clauses make workers who decide to go out on a wildcat strike, or conduct some other kind of work stoppage, extremely vulnerable. Management can use the no-strike clause as 'just cause' for firing or discipline.

And even if your contract does not contain a no-strike clause, most often grievance procedures themselves are viewed by the law as a de-facto no-strike clause. The legal reasoning is this: the point of labor-management contract is to guarantee "industrial peace."

When the two parties agree to resolve disputes in a particular manner, stepping outside of the agreed-upon procedure is a violation of the contract. Therefore, if the problem that workers are having is subject to resolution by the grievance procedure in the contract, the law demands that you use that procedure instead of striking.

As this paper is going to press, American Airlines pilots are engaged in a sick-out. Seems that the pilots are sick of American Airlines' maneuvering to buy another company and where the new pilots get paid significantly less than those now working under a union contract. An injunction has been issued ordering the workers to get well in a week, or the union will face a multimillion dollar fine. Wildcat actions, ones which come from the shop floor directly, are often used by the boss to force the union to discipline its own members into going back to work. Unions are most usually held harmless from damages such as loss of business if they do not lend aid to the strikers and did not encourage the action, and do not end up taking drastic measures to force workers back in. Occasionally, however, you will see an international union come in to a wildcat situation and replace the leadership of the local and open the doors of the shop to whomever will go back, often taking in scabs as new union members.

A no-strike clause can become irrelevant if a boss commits an unfair labor practice. Be warned - "unfair labor practice" is a term of legal art, so don't get confused. You can't have a legally protected strike just because your boss did something unfair. An unfair labor practice is a violation of Section 8 of the

National Labor Relations Act, and is judged to be one by the National Labor Relations Board. For workers who are out on an unfair labor practice strike, they must file a charge against the boss and prevail on that charge. And, just in case you were thinking it, the NLRB has ruled that just because a boss commits an unfair labor practice, doesn't mean the workers are automatically protected if they go out on strike. The unfair labor practice must be significant enough in nature that a strike is merited. I wish I could give you a measuring stick on that one, but I can't. Unfair labor practice strikes are also subject to scrutiny because bosses will often insist that the charge is just a cover for a dispute which really involves pay rates, hours of work or other workplace conditions.

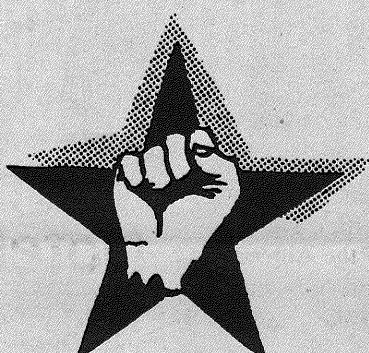
And what would one of these columns be without a really depressing story. While I was consulting with a former arbitrator on a contract recently, he told me a story about a guy who

thought that he and his co-workers could improve their conditions by striking. The guy wrote a letter to his local newspaper, itemizing the grievances he had, and urging his co-workers to strike. The letter was printed, but nobody struck. Even the author of the letter showed up to work the next day, but found that he was fired. Why? The no-strike agreement in the contract said that strikes should not be, among other things, "encouraged." The decision to fire the worker was upheld by an arbitrator who decided that even though nobody struck, not even the agitator of the idea, the simple sentiment was a violation of the contract and cause for firing.

I do not want to convey the idea that striking while under contract is a hopeless circumstance, but do want people to look realistically at the potential outcomes. With good preparation and strategic planning, it can still be possible for workers bound by nearly any kind of agreement (or no agreement) to win their demands by refusing to work. In my next column, the last in this series, I will discuss what preparations can be made before going out on strike, and give some examples of successful actions. -Alexis Buss

Do you have a question about strikes or a success story to share? Write to: Alexis Buss, PO Box 42531, Philadelphia, PA 19101 or e-mail phillyiww@iww.org.

Wobbling the Works is a column designed to inform workers about laws, the limitations and dangers of relying on the legal system to gain better conditions or protect our rights, and how best to use the protections we have.



I'm feeling pretty optimistic for the Union and the labor movement as a whole at the moment, while a little overwhelmed personally. The optimism may have something to do with the approach of spring. We have had a number of relatively warm days since the storm of the quarter-century. The snow's all gone. We even hit a record high of 60 Fahrenheit a couple days ago, although it's back in the teens again today.

There may be a thaw in progress for the labor movement as well. There have been at least three student occupations of university administration buildings in recent days. The University of Wisconsin, Georgetown, and Duke are the ones I know of. The goal of the occupations is to force universities to stop making lucrative financial deals with sporting goods manufacturers who are profiting from sweatshop labor.

There seems to be a developing network of student groups supporting labor issues. It's a heartening development. All too often in the past workers and students have held each other in disdain - one more situation in which division only helps the bosses and keeps two groups from benefiting by acting in solidarity. If we're finally getting beyond those divisions, it's one more reason for the bosses to tremble.

from the desk of...

I find reason for optimism in the Pilot "sick-in" against American Airlines as well. They are prohibited by law from striking. But by calling in sick and refusing overtime they have forced the cancellation of many hundreds of flights every day in the past week.

The Pilot's Union is for members of the labor aristocracy. Their salaries are pretty amazing, averaging over \$100,000 a year. The current issue is the purchase by American of a feeder airline where the pilots make half that, still a pretty respectable income. The American pilots are reasonably concerned that AA will use the pilots from the feeder airline to take over American flights at the lower salaries. They're taking action to get the wages of the feeder airline pilots raised. While the particular wages in this case are of little concern to me, I consider the principle of fighting the undercutting of wages very important. And I find the idea of protecting high wages by raising those of lower paid workers, rather than the all too common stance of blaming the less well paid workers heartening.

Up to this point the pilots have defied a court injunction ordering them back to work. Not too many U.S. unions have been willing to do that in recent decades. Even while imposing the injunction, the judge said that if you looked up the definition of bad labor relations in the dictionary, you'd find the American Airlines logo right next to it. It's my feeling that just about any corporate logo would fit in there equally well.

Today the judge found the union and two of its board members in contempt of court for, in his mind, not doing enough to get the pilots back to work. A \$10 million fine is threatened. Now we'll see how much spine these union officials have.

Yet another cause for some optimism is a new report showing that the number of U.S. workers in unions has grown or stabilized in 32 of the 50 states over the past year. That tells me that U.S. workers are again coming to understand that without concerted action they're screwed. Let's hope they don't get disillusioned by finding that the union's they're joining are only interested in their dues. If they should find that, I can suggest to them another union that's growing and has never sold out its principles.

The IWW had another 26% increase in membership over the past year. Branch charter applications used to come in at the rate of 3 or 4 a year. Presently there are applications for charters from 3 General Membership and 2 Industrial Union Branches before the IWW General Executive Board. Fellow Workers in Solidarissus in Finland have voted to affiliate with the IWW. Wobs in Australia, source of one of the GMB applications, talk of interest from workers in Malaysia as well.

The feeling of being personally overwhelmed is related to the growth. Every time a new group applies for a charter I have these ambiguous feelings of "Oh great, we're growing!" and "Oh no!, more work for the same staff at General Headquarters!" But "Oh great!" always wins out. I've taken to telling Fellow Workers that this job is liable to kill me; but if that happens because we're growing to the point of once again becoming a force to be reckoned with in the international labor movement, I'll die with a smile on my face. Back to work. (Writing this column is the sort of thing I do on my breaks.)

Go students! Go pilots! Go Wobblies!

See you on the picket lines.

Fred Chase

Charlene "Charlie" Sato Memorial Fund

Donations assist female Wobs with the costs of attending General Assemblies
Hajime & Aiko Sato Wahiawa, HI \$500 • Michael Long Washington, D.C. \$300

Utah Phillips Solidarity Fund

Rick Garren Fairport, NY \$20

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

Tom Johnson Newmarket, NY \$15 • "Dr. Fats" Fircrest, WA \$10 • McArthur Gunter Camp Springs, MD \$19.20 • Jerry Pandora San Pedro, CA \$15 • Toivo Halonen Cleveland, OH \$10 • Bruce Kayton Brooklyn, NY \$15 • John Christensen Minneapolis, MN \$10 • Raymond Solomon Flushing, NY \$36 • Robert Boldt Homewood, IL \$10 • Ralph Muller Hamburg, Germany \$36 • Cliff Bennett Hawkestone, ONT, Canada \$35 • John Schraufnagel Superior, WI \$10 • Reuben Solomon Flushing, NY \$10

IWW Fighting Fund

Paul Jones Orlando, FL \$5 • Shon Meckfessel Sacramento, CA \$1 • Bob Heald Montpelier, VT \$20 • Mark Damron Cincinnati, OH \$10 • Bob Sokolosky Jr. Waddell, AZ \$10 • Roger Carpenter Farmingdale, ME \$40 • Bob Heald Montpelier, VT \$20 • (2nd contribution) Michael Bailey Pembina, ND \$5 • Lancaster GMB Lancaster, PA \$50 • John Liebau Springfield, PA \$8.55 • Clement Joseph New York, NY \$10



photo by Paul Whitely

Tyson Guts Workers

continued from page 1

lower rack and so on. The stench is overpowering and nauseating. The effect of the ammonia fumes created from chicken excrement is so intense as to cause breathing disorders in birds and workers alike. Perhaps this is why Tyson is so anxious to cap the worker's health benefits and to double the cost of workers health insurance deductibles. They are perfectly willing to kill their own employees, they just don't want to pay for the privilege.

In the plants, there are as many as 12 birds to a crate and crates are stacked high. This causes unnatural crowding for the birds and many would die from fighting but for the practice of searing off the beaks and claws of the birds so that they cannot peck or scratch each other. The birds are unhealthy and prone to infection because of their injuries and conditions, and so are routinely doused with antibiotics. But this practice has effects on human health as well. In a study by Michael Osterholm, an epidemiologist at the Minnesota Health Department, it was discovered that the use of certain antibiotics has backfired. In the Tyson chickens sampled, some 13% were found to be harboring Salmonella and some 62% were found to be carrying Campylobacter. Workers in Tyson plants are currently forced to handle these infected carcasses and to process them for sale and consumption. The government estimates that the annual cost of

illnesses caused by foodborne Salmonella and Campylobacter to be as high as \$3.5 billion and \$5.6 billion, respectively. These costs are borne by both consumers and workers, but not by the company.

Given Tyson's disgusting record of health and safety violations in their plants as well as the documented dumping of live and infected chickens in landfills (after they had been rejected for processing because of disease), it would be natural to assume that just maybe some oversight agency would site them and prosecute. But Tyson figured the bribe was cheaper than the fine, and so they sent their chief spokesperson, Archie Scaffer and Jack Williams to Washington to buy leniency from Mike Espy, Secretary of Agriculture, who was only too happy to oblige at a cost of about \$8000. Unluckily for Tyson, the two spokesmen were caught in '98, tried and convicted.

Tyson is one big, bad corporate monster and has shown that it will stop at nothing to keep profits high. But the UFCW Local 227 is stepping up the pressure on Tyson to get justice. In a series of appearances at stockholder meetings and pickets at other Tyson facilities, a new group has formed to speak out on Tyson's attempt to create third world conditions in its facilities.

On January 20th, striking workers

from the Tyson plant in Corydon, IN, joined "Truth Squads", named for their commitment to speak the truth to the general public and to workers in other facilities about working conditions for poultry workers at Tyson. The Truth Squad is a key part of UFCW's efforts to build a movement among all Tyson workers to take on the poultry and food processing giant. This group of dedicated workers has traveled to Fayetteville Arkansas to inform Tyson stockholders of their intention to organize a boycott of Tyson products until the Corydon workers have a fair contract. The Truth Squad has also visited the Portland, IN plant and the Jackson, Mississippi plant and organized handbilling, pickets and community talks. These efforts at community organizing have caught the attention and support of people across the country. The National Baptist Convention-USA, an organization of some 8.5 million members, has offered its support and asked its churches not to buy Tyson chicken products for their church functions. The Truth Squads and their message have been endorsed by Rev. Jesse Jackson and a wide array of social justice, union and religious groups.

Kentucky Wobs have been offering their support on the picket lines, too. On January 23, Wobs, Jobs With Justice, Southern Indiana and Louisville labor councils, and several other unions joined hundreds of striking UFCW members to demand just wages and benefits (see photos) for Tyson workers. Paul Whitely, organizer for Jobs With Justice, says that Tyson has only experienced one other strike in its history and that was broken after just one day. The current strike is over a month old now and building in strength.

Tyson workers are asking that people boycott Tyson chicken packages marked "P1241" and that they call Tyson to tell them to agree to the workers' demands by calling them at 1-800-643-3410.

The strikers can be contacted at: Tyson Strike Assistance Fund, UFCW local 227, 7902 Old Minors Lane, Louisville, KY 40219.

(502) 241-69788 or (800) 443-5191. They can be e-mailed at: UFCW227@aol.com and TysonUnion@win.net

Lumpkin Prole

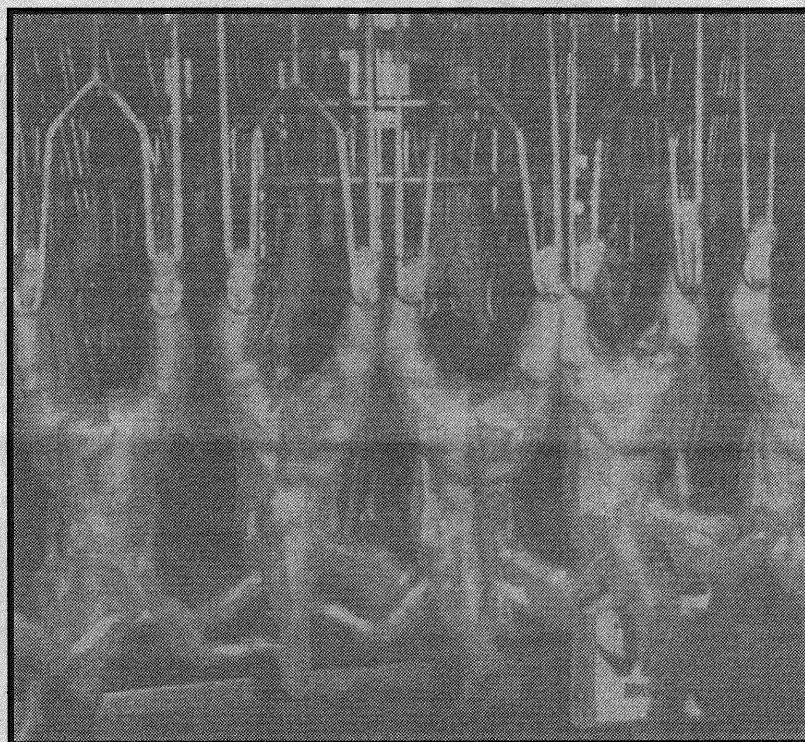


photo by Karen Davies

Pirate Radio Boost

Why can't the public use the public airwaves? Americans have been asking that question for decades, but the question has become increasingly important recently as titanic media empires consolidate their control over the broadcast spectrum with ominous political, cultural and economic ramifications.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) was created ostensibly to protect "the public interest, convenience and necessity" regarding our airwaves. The "public interest" is the agency's bedrock principle according to its current chairman, William Kennard. In reality, however, the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) has usually succeeded in winning regulations favorable to the largest corporations. In 1978, big broadcasters convinced the F.C.C. to discontinue "Class D" licenses for small community stations, claiming they "clutter" the airwaves.

The "micro power" radio movement has grown: forming associations, holding conferences, distributing transmitters, filing lawsuits, conducting a national march and earning significant coverage in virtually every major newspaper in the country.

As a result and after receiving 13,000 requests for low power licenses in 1998, the F.C.C. recognized two formal rule-making petitions, RM-9242 and 9208, which presented contrasting plans for relegalizing community radio.

After conducting a public comment period, on January 29, 1999 agency commissioners voted four to one in favor of releasing its plan, a coalescence of the two petitions and comments received. It calls for two tiers of a Low Power FM (LPFM) service; one with a maximum 1000 watts ERP (Estimated Radiated Power) and 60 meter antenna HAAT (Height Above Average Terrain), and one with up 100 watts ERP and 30 meter antenna heights. Such stations would range about eight and four miles respectively. They also request comments on a 10-watt service. Perhaps as many as 4,000 new stations could be created if the plan is adopted.

The plan also calls for strict ownership limit of no more than five to ten stations per owner and current license holders would be restricted from the new service. These limits are intended to prohibit existing broadcast empires from eventually absorbing the new stations. However, community radio activists point out that ownership limits for existing stations were lifted two years ago and that

the N.A.B. would likely lobby to eliminate limits for LPFM stations in the future. Many activists insist on keeping the maximum wattage down to 100-250 watts, only one station per owner who must live within 25-50 miles of their station, and that all the new stations be strictly non-commercial.

A public comment period on the plan begins on February 11, 1999 and lasts for 60 days. It is followed by a "reply-comment" period of 30 days. During this time, the N.A.B. intends to lobby fiercely to derail the plan. Many suspect they will attempt to pressure key members of Congress to introduce a "stealth amendment" into unrelated legislation. However, the community radio movement is well organized and ready for a fight. They have their own friends in Washington, notably Congressman Bonior, and are also gathering state resolutions, city council resolutions and the support of community groups.

F.C.C. staff members have openly expressed their dismay over the excessive influence wielded in the past by high-priced lobbyists during their rule making procedures, and seek the guidance of community and civic groups and individuals. Church groups, labor, city councils, third parties, ethnic and cultural

organizations, etc. are all urged to participate by filing comments to be included in the official record. In addition to technical commentary, the agency seeks opinions about cultural and socioeconomic issues. The agency has agreed to allow for electronic filing of comments in this procedure, in order to accommodate the greatest number of voices. Interested parties can get more information from www.fcc.gov/mmb/prd/lpfm/ or by contacting the Michigan Music is World Class Campaign (248-542-8090, jamrag@usnmail.com, PO Box 20076, Ferndale MI 48220).

Kenrad summed up the matter quite well recently: "Radio has become the province of multi-billion dollar corporations . . . the loss of small religious stations and local programming is very unfortunate . . . In a society where most people get all their news and information from the broadcast industry, how can we have a strong democracy when the media is concentrated in the hands of a few? This issue cannot come down to a battle between the rich and the very wealthy, as do so many of the battles we have in Washington. These issues are fundamental to our democracy."

Tom Ness/Jam Rag Press/ Michigan Music is World Class Campaign 248-542-8090 jamrag@usnmail.com PO Box 20076, Ferndale MI 48220



Power house at Ford Rouge Plant in Dearborn Michigan burns.

photo by Becky Armstrong

Ford Powerhouse Explodes

As I lay on a table donating blood last Wednesday, I was amazed at the stories going around the room. The Red Cross had come to UAW Local 600 with hundreds of others to create a special blood bank for the needs of the 15 Ford workers still fighting for their lives in U of M's intensive care burn unit after the explosion February 1st in the boiler house of the Rouge Plant. The blast killed one worker immediately and burned at least a dozen others beyond recognition. But

of all the grizzly details of the workers' horrible injuries, the most amazing thing I heard repeatedly was that 'everybody saw this coming' and that it could happen again someplace else soon.

The Ford Rouge plant employs 7,300 people who work at its Mustang assembly plant and at five other parts factories within the complex. The Rouge Steel company alone employs some 3,200, although it used to provide jobs to many times that number. The facility's air and

water emissions are among the worst in the world. Satellite pictures taken of the Rouge River winding through the plant, do not register the river as water because of its heavy load of toxics and sediment. Its banks have been cemented to prevent toxic leaching into the surrounding soil.

The Rouge power plant is ancient and unsafe. Local 600 President Jerry Sullivan says that he can remember several coal dust explosions, though official records only list a 1987 explosion in the pulver-

izer room adjacent to the power house. In October of 1995, an explosion in the main water pumping station injured one worker. The state cited Ford for inadequate training of the two workers involved.

Ford was planning on building a new powerhouse this summer. According to some sources, the new powerhouse would be under the supervision of Consumers Power and not Detroit Edison which was responsible for the now destroyed powerhouse. The switch may have been due to Detroit Edison's miserable track record for health and safety. Edison's history managing Monroe, Michigan's two nuclear power plants (Fermi 1 and 2) includes many accidents and near melt-downs, Ford's squeamishness seems well justified (big companies hate big lawsuits). Unfortunately for the workers, the new plant didn't come soon enough.

And what about the possibility of the families recuperating some of their medical expenses or providing for the surviving members? Well, they won't be getting anything from Ford. An article in the UAW-Ford contract holds Ford harmless for such "accidents", unless they can prove Ford to be "criminally negligent". Not likely in this company town.

But workers aren't fooled. According to Ron Lare, a 21 year old tool-and-die worker at the Rouge plant, the cost-cutting craze of the past few years has meant cutting corners on safety, with more and more jobs being done by fewer and fewer workers. "They're doing all this cost-cutting and then something like this happens, you have to wonder," says Lare.

Or as Sullivan puts it, "All of us are workers. We go to work every day expecting to come home at the end of the day, and when people don't, we realize it could happen to us".

Maya Carpenter

Scabs Run in Terror

Solidarity Shuts Chatham Ontario Hotel

Anger and frustration with Tory cut-backs erupted at a mass demonstration January 23 in this southwestern Ontario community halfway between London and Windsor.

Some observers were drawing comparisons with a bygone era of labor militancy when workers took matters into their own hands.

Local police bullies stood idly by, keeping their distance as a breakaway crowd of 500 cheering demonstrators including several IWW members burst into the lobby of the Best Western Wheel's Inn.

In the spontaneous action, the demonstrators showed solidarity against local police who have been harassing small numbers of the young picketers seeking their first contract since their strike began November 25.

"It gives you the sense of power that exists with masses of people," said Manse Matthias, a retired Ford autoworker from Windsor.

"This takes me back fifty five years." Mathias said, referring to earlier mass actions such as the Ford and Stelco strikes of the mid-1940s.

"People were dropping their tools, leaving the plants, and going to the picket lines, and the bosses couldn't do a damned thing. The power is with the masses."

The action by about half of the crowd seemed to catch organizers by surprise, as the rest of the crowd of 1500 demonstrators listened to speeches at a massive rally which closed down the central part of this

southwestern Ontario town.

Innkeeper Stephen Bradley appeared surprised but calm as scabs ran in terror as the locked doors of the Inn were opened in response to a pounding which otherwise would have broken them in. Several local police officers inside remained in hiding as the crowd surged into the lobby, overturning several benches and crumbling a few ceiling tiles, causing very minor damage.

The crowd of supporters was about fifty percent larger than expected as workers traveled by car, van and bus from around southern Ontario, including two bus loads from Windsor and several vehicles from Detroit.

President Wayne Samuelson of the OFL and Windsor and District Labour Council President Gary Parent both castigated Premier Mike Harris and Stephen Bradley and warned that they'd be back next time with three times the numbers if the strike isn't settled soon.

"We'll close down the auto plants in Windsor and we'll be back here," Parent said to cheers from crowd.

The demonstration seemed to reflect growing frustration with the war on labour, social programs and the poor being conducted by the Tory government of Mike Harris and his cronies in Ottawa and the business community.

With an election expected this spring, the Tories are coming under increasing criticism for cuts to welfare, Medicare

and education programs. Increasingly, workers' rights such as scab protection and freedom to organize have been undermined.

Newswriters from Detroit were front and centre in the demonstration, offering their support and solidarity, and drawing strength from the gathering. The News and Free Press workers have been on strike for 43 months, as the Gannett and Knight-Ridder chains attempt to break

"All they have is their money, but we are stronger and we will win because we have each other!"

their union.

"All they have is their money, but we are stronger and we will win because we have each other!" striking newswriter Brenda Engels told the wildly cheering crowd.

The 460 members of the CAW have been on strike at the Wheel's Inn for two months, looking for a first contract. The Bradley family, which owns half of the town of Chatham, appearing hell-bent on breaking the union.

Speakers included a 14 year-old woman who was hired at the Wheel's Inn for just three weeks before the strike. She said she was hired by management who thought she would cross the picket line, but she hasn't and won't.

The workers want better pay and working conditions. While they have been on the picket lines, scabs living in the hotel have taken their jobs.

Although the Bradley family says it can't offer the workers more than pennies an hour in raises, it paid \$13 an hour and \$200 a week bonuses to scabs over the holidays in December and January.

"Why can they pay the scabs but they can't pay, us?" asked one 18 year old striker.

One of the first demonstrators inside the Wheel's Inn on Saturday said Canadian Press accounts of what happened afterwards were grossly distorted. CP said demonstrators "trashed" the hotel lobby when the demonstration "turned ugly," and that the demonstrators were "stopped by police."

"The police were in hiding," the demonstrator said, "and there was nothing ugly about the demonstration except for Steve Bradley and his scabs."

"The demonstrators left peacefully after making our point. We left before things got ugly. We decided not to let things get ugly," she said.

Wayne Samuelson, President of the 650,000 member Ontario Federation of Labour called for an end to Premier Mike Harris's legislation that lets businesses hire scabs during a strike.

"I say to (Premier Mike) Harris and (Liberal Leader Dalton) McGuinty, wake up! This province should not have scabs," he shouted, to the crowd's cheers.

SCRAPBALLER by Mick Vranich

it started in the **scrap pit** in the steel mill in Detroit at the edge of the river in the winter of 1964 the **War** was brewing it was **15 below zero** outside and **20 above zero** in the scrap pit. my hands hurt. it was midnight. the **sheet of steel** was rolling over my head. the cutting edge sheared a **fine metal ribbon** off the rolling steel the ribbon **flowed into my pit** and i threaded it on a **huge metal tongue** then went back to my stool and **threw the switch** and watched the tongue rotate spooling up the fine metal ribbon. that was my job **a scrapballer**. i was 18. the factory was running the **sound of steel on steel** the drone of **fire in the blast** furnaces from my pit i couldn't see a soul. **no one**. there was one small light bulb hanging from the ceiling of the pit. **orange light**. my shift had just started i would be **in the pit through the night** into the morning it would be dark when i went home it would still be cold. i wanted to go home be in my **basement shelter** be in warmth. **i couldn't allow that thought in my head. never**. i poured a cup of coffee from my thermos and lit a cigarette and watched the steel spooling. **i thought of the lake and songs**. the steel spool was getting **bigger and bigger** i'd have to cut the thread soon and ring the bell for the overhead crane to come and drop the magnet **pick up the spool** and then i'd **thread the tongue again**. i did all that and went back to my stool. **2 a.m. my bones were cold**.

From the book "Radnik Pissar", "Worker Poet."

Please send workers' and wobblies' poems to the Industrial Worker!

INS & LABOR

continued from page 1
debt-ridden for years. When faced with extreme poverty and hungry children, people will risk crossing the border for the opportunity of work.

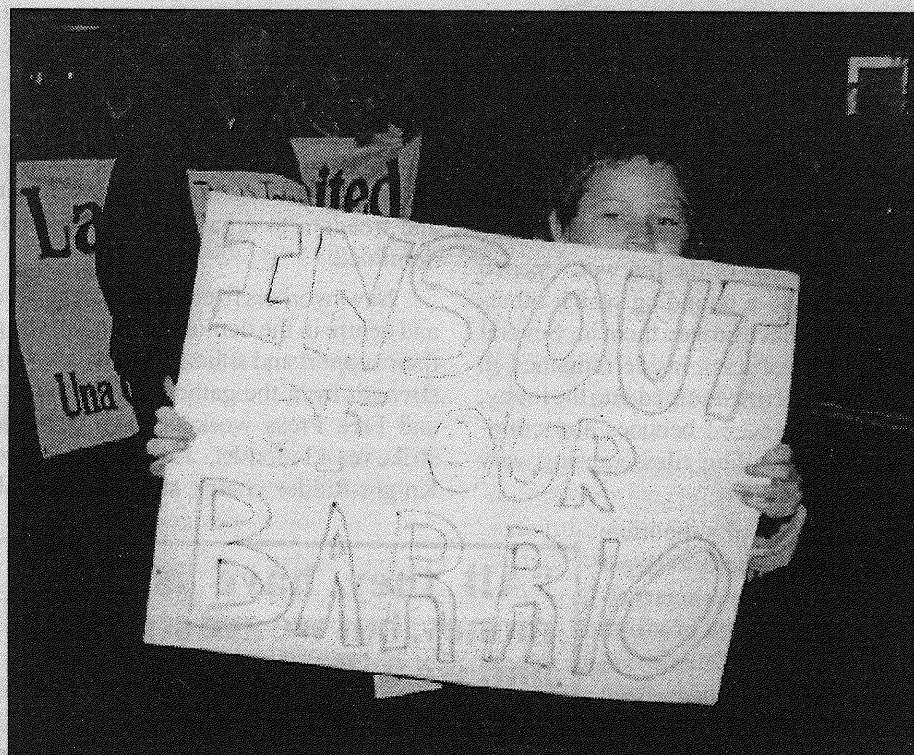
Our U.S. economy is doing well today, as indicated by the concerted effort of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to deport record amounts of people through arrests and work place raids. In the fall of 1998, Detroit, MI, witnessed raids at 4 workplaces in which over 100 people were detained. There were allegations of abuse and mistreatment to such an extent that Internal Affairs from the INS office in Washington sent a Fact Finder to investigate these reports in February, 1999. The National INS Raids Task Force of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights documented 235 raids, between June '97 and June '98, from around the country in which persons suffered physical, psychological and verbal abuse, and were victims of illegal and inappropriate searches and seizures.

An internal INS memorandum issued May 22, 1998, from the Executive Associate Commissioner providing instruction on properly enforcing immigration work laws and raids. This memo states that the purpose of worksite enforcement is to "deter the unlawful employment of immigrants in the United States and that any contemplated worksite enforcement action should be measured against this goal".

Raids instill fear in ethnic communities. Too many people are abused and suffer rights violations by officers when work place raids are made. Workers have been locked in their places of work, surrounded by armed men, and shackled to each other for hours. These are people working in restaurants or tortilla factories. Too often nonwhite citizens and permanent residents suffer this abuse as well. INS has also raided facilities in the process of organizing, even though they've agreed to avoid raids under such circumstances. People equate INS with union busting and become afraid to pur-

sue organizing, a right of undocumented workers and documented workers.

Law enforcement agencies work with the INS to raid work sites. This makes people fear all law enforcement. People stop calling police to report robberies, domestic violence or other violations of the law fearing removal. Raids inhibit workers from protesting unsafe working conditions and demanding minimum wage. Often, when a complaint is filed



with the Department of Labor (DOL), the DOL itself will bring INS into the situation. Undocumented workers being exploited by their employer will maintain silence in the face of abuse rather than risk detection and removal. In an effort to curb this fear the INS and DOL signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in November, 1998. This MOU requires both agencies appropriately coordinate enforcement. One term of the MOU directs that when conducting a workplace investigation, DOL investigators are prohibited from contacting the INS if there is a suspected violation of immigration law. Whether or not the DOL and INS will adhere to this MOU remains to be seen. Nevertheless, it will be a very difficult task to convince workers to trust their claims of employment discrimination will

Local Prez Gets Porkchop Parachute

Forty SEIU bureaucrats at a New York City local were forced to resign and the local put in receivership in February. The departing porkchoppers won't need unemployment insurance since they are taking nearly \$10,000,000 of the local's money with them as they go.

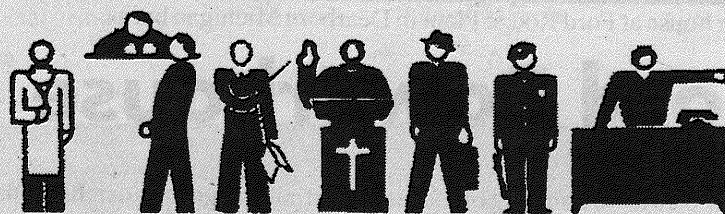
Gus Bevona, president of SEIU Local 32B-32J for eighteen years, leaves behind a \$450,000 a year salary and a lavish penthouse office and apartment atop the unions 22-story building. He takes \$1,500,000 in severance pay and unused vacation time with him. "That was excessive," noted SEIU president Andrew Stern in suspending Bevona.

Local members, many of them immigrants, work as janitors, doormen and elevator operators. Local dues are about \$40 a month with members making about \$32,000 a year. Membership in the local,

which numbered 70,000 ten years ago, has fallen to 55,000.

Bevona maintained himself in office with a highly paid gang of business agents and executive board members who worked as a political patronage machine dedicated to keeping themselves in power.

Dissident members, who have organized as Members for a Better Union, have faced harassment and intimidation for years. When the union hired thugs to stake out his apartment, MBU co-chair Carlos Guzman moved among friends' homes nightly, never sleeping in the same place two nights in a row. Guzman told the New York Times that he was no stranger to political repression having grown up in Ecuador where "the soldiers had guns and bullets, we just had stones to throw at them."



be recognized without fear of repercussion.

In Detroit, all of the raids that have occurred focused on the Latino and Mexican communities. INS and Border Patrol in a public meeting held by the Michigan Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Protection denied focusing on these two communities. They said they raid work places when they receive tips. Then, the method most commonly used is to review the I-9

arrests made by Border Patrol in Michigan in 1998, over 400 were Mexicans. INS estimated the undocumented population in Michigan in 1996 at 37,000. Mexicans do not make up one-third of the undocumented population, yet account for two-thirds of the arrests. Border Patrol patrols Detroit and has stood outside of ESL classes, even entrapping people by having them admit to undercover agents they had no status. These tactics are not used in any other ethnic community.

What Do We Think About It?

People in Southwest Detroit have suffered abuses at the hands of Border Patrol for years. At community meetings previously mentioned, prominent Latino and Mexican members of the community confronted INS about these abuses. Officers were surprised at the animosity of the crowd, demonstrating how far removed these officers are from the communities in which they patrol. The Latino, Mexican and Arab communities are banding together to protest INS and the different tactics being used in their communities. The time for compromise may be too late as people cannot forget the abuses they have suffered.

Arresting people for working in the U.S. without documents has no effect on the circumstances that cause people to leave their home country in the first place. A raid at a meat packing plant in Detroit will not stop Ana from leaving El Salvador because she cannot feed her kids. A raid in California will not stop Paul from leaving Nigeria because he is threatened. Simple raids *can not* and *will not* deter people from doing what they must in order to survive in this world. It is more an inconvenience than anything else. The people who are arrested and sent home today will be the same people who are filling vacant factory jobs in seven months. The fact that they were deported once has no reflection whatsoever of their individual country conditions that bring them here in the first place. What we have is an inefficient, bureaucratic monster that wastes billions of dollars trying to enforce absurd laws that are unenforceable.

Elen Fawr

The road runs on forever here. A cliché perhaps, but a good one. As streets towns and cities flash by in a blur and the haze in the night sky determines yet another factory or industrial site, the hours tend to speed by unnoticed, like the over-used lyrics to a pop song. And still this highway disappears in the headlights and continues on and on to Brownstown, Texas and further still.

This place I am now is nowhere. No country. No state. It is only determined by weigh station and rest area, mile marker or eggs and grits at 3 am, deer crossings and another state line; all of this (which equals a wealth unto itself) as well as, setting each one of these ordinaries apart, the people that reside in the interior of this monster. Yet even this is not what I really wish to convey. After all of this, after the motels and the paperwork and the growl of diesel, I just wish that I could say more.

These are the tales that accompany me as I enter the state of Texas, Alabama, Kentucky, New York. The encounters on docks from New Jersey to Kansas. Arguments and discussions with unionists at GM and Fords. Random acts of solidarity in a diner, at a rest area, around the plants and on the picket lines. Debates with Wobblies in Tulsa, St. Louis, Brooklyn and Tacoma. Beer and bad music in this nation's bars and railroad yards.

* * * * *

1998 was an interesting year. Whether it was encounters in and around Detroit Metro Airport and the electricity surrounding the Northwest strike; (I remember perfectly my interactions with the Northwest cargo workers in the weeks and months leading up to the strike and the attitudes of the other drivers towards work slowdowns. I discussed the importance of this relationship with many of the

hi-lo drivers that season. You got to work on solidarity *before* you go to war. Animosity and hierarchy between dock workers and truckers is no way to assure someone is going to catch your back when you need it most); or the shutdown and strikes at GM in Flint, MI; (I remember a woman at shipping & receiving at GM Pontiac exclaiming into the middle of a discussion and roasting of the UAW leadership:

"Hey y'all," she was shaking a pile of papers, "I got this whole stack of orders for parts going up there to Flint. (Name forgotten) wants me to get this stuff out 'right away'." She mimicked the suit's voice and the workers laughed.

"Well," I said, looking around the office, "why don't you just lose them."

She looked at me confused although she knew exactly what I was referring to. "What do you mean, 'lose them'?"

"You guys lose stuff all the *time*," I said, and left it at that.

She shrugged and, to my surprise, left the room with the pile of paperwork, only to return moments later empty-handed. What exactly happened to the illicit orders I'll never know, but my mind has a tendency to fantasize on the side of naughtiness.

Now who knows how 1999 will treat the interior of Flint, MI. When the con-

tract runs out will we see this boom town move one rung closer to ghost town? All bets are not in, but odds are, if history has a tendency to repetition...

* * * * *

The monstrous Fords complex at River Rouge exploded today. I remember being en route to the plant (more like a gated community with Pinkerton security and a problematic environmental impact) about 8 months ago when word came through the radio that the delivery had been aborted due to a collapsed bridge that served as a major route for workers and deliveries approaching a leaving the plant. Now this.

A spokesman for Fords was unavailable for comment but left us a wonderful soundbite to run on the nightly news, "This is the worst day of my life." It may sound wrong, but I couldn't help but let out a single bark of laughter in response to his ineffectual drama. I've never worked exclusively in an auto plant but I know plenty of folks who have, each of them with their own stories that enter the brain with the same vividness as huge books of war photography and the revolting captions that accompany them upon newspaper publication. From a myriad of lost limbs to toxic inhalations, burst eardrums and death. From alcoholism to child abuse. Each one of these as much a

product that the plant produces as a new model car. motorcycle or sports utility vehicle. And this guy wants me to believe that today is the 'worst day of his life'. Sounded more like a public relations statement than a reaction to a tragedy that merited an action long ago.

At Fords Monroe Metal Stamping plant, one of my favorite pick-up points, I met a guy. It was my first trip there, and I entered the plant with a bit of apprehension and fear. I couldn't hear a thing, it was inhumanly hot as sparks and dust whirled through hidden corridors, and I wandered through the plant aimlessly taking turn after turn, losing myself in the maze of production. Unable to locate the shipping office, I approached a man covered in soot and steam:

"Yo! Man!," I yelled over the grinding operation, "where do I go to find shipping?"

He gave me directions too numerous to recount here, while I created a haphazard map in my head.

"Thanks a lot man! This place is like a little city or somethin'!"

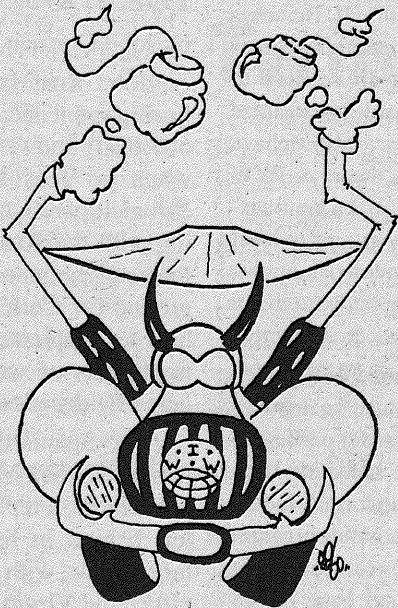
"No problem, man," he said, wiping his forehead.

"You know, I've been in a lot of plants all around Michigan and Detroit, but this place," I paused to gesture and look about, "this place is fucking *hard*!"

He looked my way, big smile slapped across his face, reared back and stuck his huge chest in my direction. "I know," he stated proudly as the machines screamed somewhere in the dark behind him.

I've never forgotten the pride in that man's face or in the sound of his words.

But right now, I've got 800 miles til Brownstown, TX. GATOR



International Labor News & Headlines



CANADA Montreal Wildcat

City of Montreal officials are vowing to tame wildcat blue-collar strikers they blame for causing rush-hour havoc by delaying the start of road salting. A freezing-rain storm in early February brought commuters to a standstill, effectively shutting down business districts. Even public transit busses were called off the roads.

Rather than report to municipal garages for their 7 a.m. shift to begin salting the streets and sidewalks, about 1,000 city workers lent support to 125 striking colleagues at the city's subsidized-housing corporation. The workers attended a demonstration in front of the Office Municipal d'Habitation to mark the six-month anniversary of the strike by maintenance workers.

Vancouver Grain Workers STRIKE!

A strike in late January by workers who weigh grain at the Port of Vancouver cut the export of grain in half. The workers walked off the job at midnight as part of an effort to pressure the federal government into resuming negotiations for a new national contract. The old contract expired in 1991.

Sixty-five members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) had their positions filled by supervisors who could not keep up with normal production quotas.

Workers returned to work on January 29, but both the employer and the union said the threat of another strike remains.

KOREA KIA Motors Strike Imminent

The labor union of KIA Motors Corp. has voted to go on strike for job security and overdue wages. The union has decided to set the date and level of the strike at a meeting of executives later.

As many as 89.24% of the 12,410 voters on hand at the two plants in Sohari and Asan voted for the resolution. The union demanded job security and a wrap-up of wage hike negotiation, which address receipt of overdue wages and discussion of a wage raise for the first quarter of this year.

Monkeywrenching 'Big Deal' Plans

Symptoms are appearing that could spread to full-blown mass strikes disrupting the current implementation of so-called big deals. Workers accustomed to 100% job security are facing the plans which, among other things, will call for massive layoffs.

Unions at Daewoo Electronics, a company involved in a swap with Samsung Motors and the Daewoo Group, have already gone on a temporary strike, and have decided on a general strike at three of the company's plants.

Production at Samsung Motors has been effectively stopped since early December 1998 when 3,000 workers struck.

I.G. Semiconductor, which is scheduled to merge with Hyundai Electronics, saw its workforce stage a slowdown that effectively reduced its production by half in an effort to oppose the big deal.

GERMANY Hard Metal: Germany's IG is Rock Solid

"When they (BDI) German Federation of Industry came in here with a Mickey Mouse offer like that they are completely underestimating how serious the situation is and how angry the workers are!," chairman Klaus Zwickel told Berlin's Det Tagespiegel. IG Metall is the largest industrial trade union in the world with some 2.7 million members, IG Metall is demanding a 6.5% raise, rejecting the pay raise offered by employers of 2.3%.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's "Alliance for Jobs" was to be our effort to get union's cooperation from the employer to create jobs. So where? Germany still has 10% unemployment! Productivity of the

workers has risen and (do we have to say) employers costs fallen considerably. Companies increased profits to 68 billion in 1998 from 9 billion only five years ago! Does this ring of ever-growing power of the employing class!?

This German Union is forming a structure for a new society and will cease work later this month or not work in March if talks completely break down! IG Metall is leading the working class in 2000, and showing "injury to one is concern for all" and the must for solidarity. This working class's solidarity will only enhance the society by creating norms of high moral endeavors. Instilling conscience not consumerism.

Lucy Parsons



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John Persak on the OBU

continued from page 3

nesses. While we did not win a NLRB representational election at Borders Books in Philadelphia, for example, the organizers gained experience and members that have led to victories in other places in that city. An IWW strike at a gas station deli in Seattle led to increased activity and optimism in the IWW on the west coast, in that it proved to ourselves (and the rest of the labor movement) that the IWW is still capable of carrying out job actions that will receive support from rank and file militants in other unions.

Organizing victories have spread to other places such as Austin, Texas, where the IWW helped win compensation for immigrant construction workers, and where members are actively building the labor movement in crucial industries, such as public transportation.

In Oakland, the IWW shut down a dock in support of locked out longshore workers in Liverpool, successfully blockading a ship loaded with scab cargo. In Tacoma, IWW members helped shut down the dock in support of striking steelworkers at Kaiser Aluminum, where a ship with bauxite for the scab plant was due to discharge cargo. There have been victories in other places, and the IWW continues to make its mark in places like Minnesota, Louisiana, and Portland. The trial and errors have resulted in gains for workers, and respect for the IWW in the labor movement. How do we further refine our tactics to win large shops and rebuild the union on the job? The key is taking this energy into the workplace, and using the democracy we have learned about at the union meetings, and build the institutional base of a democratic, militant union, on the job itself.

The IWW in Portland has taken a lead position in attempting to build the IWW on the basis of which it was originally designed, by building industrial union "branches" locally. In the last two years, three small industrial locals have been organized, including workers in construction, entertainment, and child care. The result has been material gains for workers, notably with the stand up comedians in Portland, and the idea has also caught on in other cities.

In the Bay Area, The Marine Transport Workers IU Local 9 grew out of the job actions in Oakland, and after two years of organizing on the waterfront, the local has grown to about 30 members. Their work has inspired members in Seattle to also build in that industry, and are on their way to having a chartered local in Seattle (local 252, taken from the original MTW that existed in Seattle under the IWW). Recently, longshore workers in the MTW on the West Coast organized a conference in Seattle, and discussed the work of building unity on the waterfront with workers in all unions, and working toward the chartering of a Coast Wide industrial union. The MTW has also established contact with militant rank and filers in the existing unions in maritime, militants who are also fighting bureaucrats and building democracy in their unions. This inside-outside strategy of building the IWW has won respect on the waterfront, and given strength and credibility as a real union that is also radical.

Construction workers in Sedro Woolley, WA, also chartered a branch in the IU330 classification, and workers in the construction industry in Santa Cruz, CA are also seeking a charter. These are only a few examples, as Wobs in many other areas have organized committees to build industrial union branches. Our sustainable successes will be based in this method of organizing, and only ideological purity or historical hard headedness will prevent us from continuing to evolve and grow in this direction.

For many years, the IWW has stagnated, not seeing much growth (but much turnover) until the last couple of years. Many have organized General Membership Branches

(GMBs) and have organized largely behind other struggles, while not working to build unions. Much of the work done by the GMBs has been invaluable to these other struggles, but it has also defined to ourselves and the rest of the working class as a political organization, rather than a labor union. Much of the membership and income is derived from the GMB model of organization, and so it would make little sense to eliminate the model outright. Many fear that the growth of IU Branches in a city will rob a GMB of precious resources and organizers, and so many are resistant to this change. It is also much harder to organize on the job than it is to organize a rally, or have discussions on revolutionary theory or IWW history. Clearly, we have to make the transformation from local affinity groups to local organizing committees for industrial unions, and ultimately a coordinating body for many unions in one city. How do we do it exactly?

Last year, the Puget Sound GMB looked at the problem and implemented an organizing plan and structure that is so far proving to be successful in making the transition from the GMB model to building unions by industry. After looking at several possible organizing drives, some members recognized the need to build an institutional base for an industry, before attempting to organize a shop.

Common practice in GMBs is to simply; organize shops. Some GMBs are anti-structuralist, and lack the structure to handle the complicated process of dividing the work of a campaign, making building unions impossible. Most are simply unsure how to proceed, given the lack of educational resources in the union about building locals. So the GMB has been left to experiment, with little to work from, and members are often faced with reinventing the wheel.

The Branch in Puget Sound in facing these problems, decided to restructure. The first task was to separate administrative work from on the job organizing. An "organizing committee" was developed, and now there are two meetings per month—one to deal with finances, policy, and elections, the other with the practical work of organizing. Those with talents in one or the other area have a place to go. An overhaul of the by-laws also became necessary, since the original rule provided no structure for organizing unions. A by-laws committee was set up, and a new structure was implemented by referendum. The new structure provides for the formation of industrial union organizing committees, to specialize the work of organizing. Under the GMB model, there is a structure to fund the committees, and serves as a pool to draw help from those not currently organizing. The committees meet as necessary, and enjoy a great degree of autonomy, much like a union would. The committees report to the General Organizing Committee of the branch, and receive funding from that meeting. Committees are allowed to produce their own literature and encouraged to build unions in their industry.

The future has also been a consideration in Seattle. There is also a structure in place to change the Branch into an Industrial District Council, once several unions are chartered. This will help coordinate the activities of each union, and make sharing office space and resources more manageable. Most important, it is such a structure that will help build cross industry solidarity, paving the way for large-scale job actions, such as sympathy or general strikes. In other words, building the structure of the new in the shell of the old; the nucleus for mass industrial organization within the GMB model. The IWW has always been given credit for the ability to experiment with different ideas and organizing tactics. This is a tradition that needs to be readopted. Above are some of the ways that we are again doing just that, and building on these ideas and experiences is the best way to move forward in building our union strong again.

John Ross:

THE ANNEXATION OF MEXICO

Common Courage Press,
1998, \$19.95.

by John Gorman

John Ross is an old Mexico hand, having spent decades in that country, and obviously known what he is talking about when he sees Mexican history as a chronicle of resistance to annexation, starting with the Aztecs who tried to annex their neighbors and unwittingly laid the ground for Cortez's conquest, enabling him to supplement his tiny army with multitudes of warriors from tribes angered by decades of Aztec oppression.

The Spaniards were the next to attempt to annex Mexico, imposing a feudal society, a replica of the one they had left behind in Spain, only on a much larger scale, with Indians as serfs. In this effort, the Virgin of Guadalupe was an enormous help with her timely apparition resulting in the conversion to Christianity of millions of hitherto skeptical natives. Ross, although not an Indian, finds himself among skeptics, noting that the first written account of these events was not set down until 115 years after their supposed occurrence, and the image of the Virgin shows evidence of having been darkened with paint.

Mexico expelled the Spaniards in its bloody 11 year War of Independence, begun in 1810. What Mexico did not expel, as Ross explains, was the feudal society inherited from the colonists, a society which kept the country backward



and vulnerable to yet another annexation assault as its neighbor to the north grew ever more powerful and ambitious.

As might be expected, Ross takes a dim view of the Texas campaign and the subsequent war with Mexico. His view of Alamo defenders Bowie, Travis and Crockett omits all but the most base of the motives that led them to their doom. Likewise, the atrocities of General Santa Ana that so infuriated the Texans at San Jacinto are glossed over. While recalling Walt Whitman's ecstatically racist endorsement of the Mexican War, Ross also fails to mention that the European powers were unanimous in their expectation of American defeat, since Mexico had, on paper at least, a large professional army, while the United States had only hastily recruited units. Ross, however, does not spare Santa Ana's vanity, incompetence and treachery in snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, bringing about the catastrophe that cost Mexico half her national territory and whetted expansionist hopes of seizing the whole North American continent.

Cooler heads in Congress prevailed, Ross says, and economic annexation took

the place of military conquest as the game plan, although dreams of acquiring Baja California or the Isthmus of Tehuantepec still surfaced. What follows is a saga of Mexican Presidents sometimes endorsing, sometimes resisting, this scenario, interspersed with desperate uprisings by those unwilling to see their country become a subsidiary of America, Inc.

Ross' analysis of the War on Drugs as yet another annexation ploy is astute and convincing. Under this pretext, the United States has sent the Mexican military enormous amounts of hardware, delivered to a country with no foreign enemies and used largely to maintain an oppressive domestic order. The Mexican part of the bargain, has "exposed Mexico to grave violations of its 'national security' . . . cost the lives of hundreds . . . of its security forces, deepened the poisoning of the police and the military, sustained a culture of violence and impunity." Yet this policy is doomed to fail, because it is not in the "interest or inclination" of a desperately poor country with 1/5 of its population abusing alcohol "to keep the gringos from burning out their neurons with self-designated illegal drugs."

In our own day, rather than overt

Book Reviews

military threats, there is the tyranny of the International Monetary Fund and the ruin of the Mexican middle class at the hands of Mexican bankers under its direction, along with the destruction of Mexican agriculture and small business by GATT and NAFTA, as those outside the favored circles sink from poverty into destitution.

Of course, Mexicans have not taken this annexation lying down. There has always been resistance, and there always will be, since, as Ross puts it, "Mexicans like being Mexicans." The most reliable and steady source of this resistance, however, has been the indigenous peoples, who have currently undertaken major armed uprisings in Chiapas and Guerrero provinces. The embattled middle class has also inaugurated a program of direct action against the bankers under the banner of el Bazon, a debtor's union. Two million others have voted with their feet, heading north to escape misery. Among them, claims of political asylum, once nearly unheard of, are now approaching 10,000.

Looking through Ross' book, it is possible to find minor shortcomings in style and language that allows words like "discombobulate" and "Swisscheesed" (referring to executions) to appear in an otherwise polished text. There are also unsettling details that leave us wondering why "the Stars and Bars were charred with Bolivian rancor" in 1962, and how "two consecutive conservative presidents signaled a shift to the left."

The biggest disappointment, however, can be summarized by saying that this book ends where it should have begun. Ross knows as much about the Mexican condition, psychic and material, as any North American alive. For that reason alone, he should tell us in which basket he has his eggs. i.e. What is his view of the future awaiting Mexico and, by implication, her neighbor, the Colossus of the North? Perhaps he plans his predictions for a sequel. But I would have preferred to hear them now, before the situation South of the Border goes from critical to apocalyptic.

Books for Rebel Workers

IWW History

The Centralia Tragedy of 1919: Elmer Smith and the Wobblies by Tom Copeland. \$17.50

Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson. Edited by D. Roediger. Autobiographical reflections and philosophy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. \$10.

The Great Bisbee Deportation of July 12, 1917 by Rob Hanson. What was the IWW doing that so threatened the establishment of Bisbee, Arizona that it forced them to take such drastic measures to try to bring the union to a halt? Hanson brings the events alive with this easy to read booklet. \$2.00.

Solidarity Forever—An oral history of the IWW. Edited by Steward Bird, Dan Georgakas & Deborah Shaffer. A compilation of interviews with former and veteran Wobblies. Badly transcribed but interesting reading. \$11.

Rebel Girl, the autobiography of Elizabeth Gurly Flynn. \$9.95.

One Big Union. by IWW. The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2.00.

Break Their Haughty Power: Joe Murphy in the Heyday of the Wobblies by Eugene Nelson. A fictionalized biography of the many varied trials and tribulations of IWW member Joe Murphy between 1919 and 1924. \$12.

The General Strike. Ralph Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble notes "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He develops that idea in this essay. \$2.00

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer by Staughton Lynd. Revised and updated, this classic self-help manual is subtitled: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." \$10.

IWW Organizing Manual (2nd Edition) A guide to building the IWW on the job. \$5.

1999 Labor History Calendar Our annual calendar. \$9.

A New Union Vision Arthur J. Miller reflects on the need for revolutionary unions today. \$2.

IWW Little Red Songbook (36th Ed.) 103 labor songs from around the world, with music. Includes classics and new songs by Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Charlie King, Utah Phillips, etc. \$10.

Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology. Edited by Joyce Kornbluh. A collection of stories, poems, songs and cartoons from the English-language Wobbly press. Just reissued. \$26.

Fellow Workers, Remember! At least 1,300 Wobblies were locked up under 'espionage' and 'criminal syndicalism' frame-ups between 1917 and 1920; this collection documents their plight and IWW efforts to fight the persecution. \$5.

Juice is Stranger Than Friction by T-Bone Slim. Edited by Franklin Rosemont. Selected writings from a working stiff, hobo and irreconcilable revolutionary; utterly unqualified in any literary respectability. \$9.

Memoirs of a Wobbly by Henry E. McGuckin. This lively narrative by an old-time Wobbly is unlike any other book on the IWW. Although "Mac" knew many of the best known Wobs of his day, his purpose here is not to discuss prominent personalities or world famous events, but to tell of the tens of thousands of militant rank & filers who, in the 1910's, made the IWW one of the grandest labor unions the world has ever seen. \$5.

A Little Working Class Sense by Gilbert Mers. In a series of essays that are long overdue this working class Wobbly breaks down the class issue in a way that is simple and concise. Highly recommended for those at the bottom of the capitalist system. \$2.

1923 IWW Songbook Facsimile reprint of IWW songs. \$5.

Rebel Voices IWW songs sung by IU 630 Wobs. Tape \$10

We Have Fed You All For 1,000 Years Utah Phillips sings IWW songs. Tape \$10

Baseball Caps Black globe on red cap. Adjustable sizing. \$9.

IWW Buttons
Fire Your Boss. \$1
Black Cat/Direct Action. \$1.
IWW Globe—circled by the motto "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red. \$1.50.

Posters by Carlos Cortez Lucy Parson, Ben Fletcher, Joe Hill or Mother Jones. \$25.

Labor History

Strike! by Jeremy Brecher. A history of U.S. workers' struggle from workers' point of view. Argues class upsurges are based in everyday life and rank & file initiative. \$22.

Dishing It Out: Waitresses and Their Unions in the 20th Century by Dorothy Cobble. \$7.50.

The New Class War: Reagan's Attack on the Welfare State and Its Consequences by F. Piven & R. Cloward. \$4.25.

Homestead: The Glory & Tragedy of an American Steel Town by William Serrin. Chronicles the 1892 strike, the boom times and the city's slow death in the 1970's and 80's. pub'd at \$25. Our price \$12.

The Rise of Public Woman by Glenna Mathews. Woman's power and woman's place in the U.S. 1630-1970. \$12.

American Women in the Progressive Era by Dorothy & Carl Schneider. Change, challenge and the struggle for women's rights. \$10.

Proletarians of the North: Mexican Industrial Workers in the Midwest by Zaragosa Vargas. Compelling history of the struggles of Mexican workers who migrated to the Midwest between the First World War and the Great Depression. \$15.

We Are All Leaders: The Alternative Unionism of the Early 1930's by Staughton Lynd. Workers were taking charge of our own destiny before the State and labor fakers intervened. Includes Wob Mike Kozura's account of coal miners seizing the mines to operate them themselves. \$21.95.

Work Without End: Abandoning Shorter Hours for the Right to Work by Benjamin Hunnicutt. \$15.

The American Labor Movement: A New Beginning by Sam Dolgoff. A veteran IWW organizer traces the history of labor militance and offers his vision of building a new, radical, rank & file labor movement. \$5.

Sacco & Vanzetti, The Anarchist Background by Paul Avrich. Hardcover, 265 pages. \$15.

Haymarket Scrapbook. Edited by Dave Roediger & Franklin Rosemont. \$15.

The Revolution Within the Revolution: Workers' Control in Rural Portugal by Nancy Barmeo. A resurgent, revolutionary agrarian movement during "The Revolution of the Carnations" and its aftermath. \$15.

Work and Labor by Judy Gail. An eclectic narrative weaving together stories and songs to create a kid-friendly history of work. \$25.

Queen of Bohemia: The Life of Louise Bryant by Mary Dearborn. A pioneering foreign correspondent, a fervent crusader for social causes, and a champion of sexual freedom. \$13.50.

Emma Goldman in Exile: The Russian Revolution to the Spanish Civil War by Alice Wexler. \$14.

Autobiography of Mother Jones. Foreword by M. LeSeur. Intro by Clarence Darrow. Tribute by Debs. Afterword by Fred Thompson. \$15.

A Generation of Boomers: Patterns of Railroad Labor Conflict in 19th Century America by Shelton Stromquist. \$10.

A People Betrayed—November 1918: A German Revolution by Alfred Döblin. \$16.

American Rubber Workers and Organized Labor by Daniel Nelson. An in-depth look at the rubber workers struggles, victories and contributions to the birth of the modern American labor movement. \$9.

The Case for Leonard Peltier A must read for anyone desiring to understand the modern American Indian Movement. \$3.

Classroom's First by Jason Justice. A good overview of the Oakland teachers' strike and their bold stand against the establishment. \$2.

Colorado's War on Militant Unionism by George G. Suggs, Jr. By far the best book available on the great hard-rock miners' labor strikes during 1903 and 1904. \$4.

The Fight Against Shutdowns: Youngstown's Steel Mill Closings by Staughton Lynd. This book honestly puts forward the facts on a day to day and crisis by crisis basis. It lays out what can happen to a community and the interplay of forces that impact our real lives. \$10.

The Flivver King: A Story of Ford-America by Upton Sinclair. Two stories unfold at the same time: those of Henry Ford and of Ford worker Abner Shutt. A telling account of the realities and discrepancies of life in Ford-America, told as only Upton Sinclair could. \$7.

Hard-Pressed in the Heartland by Peter Rachleff. This account P-9's struggle against Hormel & the UFCW suggests the possibility of a militant, rank & file, community based unionism. This is the story of the Hormel strike and what it means to the future of the labor movement. \$5.

Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico Today by Dan LaBotz. Using scores of interviews with Mexican rank & file workers, labor officials, women's organizations, lawyers and human rights' activists, LaBotz illustrates the precarious position of workers in the Mexican economy in the 1990's. \$12.

Roll The Union On: A Pictorial History of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union by H. L. Mitchell. One of the most exciting and inspiring stories of the modern American labor movement; the story of the STFU and its long and bitter struggle for a better life for the down-trodden sharecroppers of the south. \$15.

Where the Sun Never Shines: A History of America's Bloody Coal Industry by Priscilla Long. A captivating and moving account of one of the most dramatic and influential periods of industrial history. \$10.

Available from IWW Branches

T-SHIRTS

Wildcat, says 'Direct Action!' above graphic. Black on white. (M, L, XL) \$12 each, SF GMB, PO Box 40485, San Francisco CA 94140

IWW Globe, black on red. (L, XL) \$17 each, P&L Printing, 2298 Clay Dr. Denver, C) 80211

Viva EZLN, red & black on white. (L only) \$12 each, Detroit GMB, 3570 W. Vernor, Detroit, MI 48216

OUTSIDE U.S.

Canadian Little Red Songbook \$5
36th Edition Int'l Songbook \$10
c/o Joe Chang, 137 Roncesvalles #208, Toronto, ONT M6R 2L2

British Isles

36th Edition Int'l Songbook £4, post-paid. A selection of literature is available from:

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IU 620

Organizing Adjuncts and TAs

Wobblies in the education field are playing an active role in organizing the 3rd national conference of the Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor which will be held in Boston Friday, April 16, and Saturday, April 17. The Boston Area General Membership Branch has endorsed the conference, and an IWW member will appear on a round table discussing strategies for organizing contingent faculty labor alongside representatives of other unions organizing education workers such as the American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, American Association of University Professors, United Auto Workers, and United Electrical Workers.

The ranks of contingent faculty are already enormous and continue to grow. For example, adjunct faculty—which does not include graduate Teaching Assistants or Research Assistants—now comprise 47 percent of college and university faculty nationally, and we will soon constitute an absolute majority. COCAL was formed to defend the interests of contingent faculty, most of whom are poorly paid, lack benefits, and work from semester to semester without promise of continuing employment.

The 3rd national conference takes place in the aftermath of several important victories for contingent faculty, including the strike for union recognition by graduate TAs in the University of California system, and the achievement of half-time status and full benefits by part-time faculty at UMass Boston. The conference will feature workshops on: How to organize a graduate employee union; Making alliances with full-time faculty; Municipal organizing campaigns; Legislative strategies: Adjunct faculty and the corporatization of higher ed; and Winning the support of undergraduate students.

A Friday evening plenary panel will report on the state of the movement (i.e. adjunct faculty and grad employee struggles) in North America. The location of that session is not yet finalized, but the all-day session on Saturday will be held at UMass Boston.

Cocal—which includes part-time, adjunct, temporary, and nontenured track faculty, as well as graduate student teaching assistants and research assistants—was formed at the concluding session of a 2nd national conference of these groups held in New York City at the CUNY Graduate Center last April. That conference was attended by more than 100 contingent faculty activists, and followed by about a year-and-a-half the first conference, held in Washington DC.

For registration information contact Gary Zabel at gzabel@medianoe.net, or at 617-287-6530. The conference web site is at <http://omega.cc.umb.edu/cocal/>

In the Boston area, Wobbly education workers helped organize a successful meeting at Suffolk University on the exploitation of adjunct faculty Feb. 4. Some 30 faculty and student showed up to watch Barbara Wolf's documentary film "Degrees of Shame: Part-Time Faculty: Migrant Workers of the Information Economy" and to discuss the situation at Suffolk, prompting an in-depth report in the student newspaper. Wobs have been meeting with adjuncts at area colleges and exploring the possibilities for organizing drives on a regional and/or campus by campus basis.

Duke Students Storm Presidential Offices

Across the country, students are organizing against the use of sweatshops to produce school jerseys, hats, T-shirts and related articles. At Duke University, NC, the University President Nan Keohane's statement that she would sign a weak sweatshop monitoring code prompted students to respond. The weak code would allow manufacturers to hide factory locations from students and human rights groups, preventing any investigation into charges of unfair labor practices and human rights violations.

On January 29, about 30 members of the Duke chapter of Students Against Sweatshops (SAS) stormed the President's office and staged a sit-in. The students have vowed not to leave the

building until President Keohane refuses to sign the code.

Simultaneously, the Georgetown chapter of Students Against Sweatshops in Washington, D.C. marched from Red Square to the office of their President. They presented him with a letter signed by dozens of faculty members and students opposed to the Collegiate Licensing Company (CLC) code.

President Keohane seems to have been influenced by SAS's actions. In public statements, she has promised to criticize the useless code and advocate for a stronger one. Unfortunately, her change of heart may not have been complete. Despite a few comments to local papers and a few phone calls to other Universities,

President Keohane may be caving in to pressure from industry and peers to accept the new, weaker code.

Duke has about 700 licensees that make T-shirts, caps and other apparel at hundreds of plants in the United States and in more than 10 other countries.

"It's important to know where the factories are because then people will be able to monitor them to make sure they're not sweatshops," said Kyle Crafton, a Duke senior who is a member of Student Against Sweatshops.

For more information, visit United Students Against Sweatshops at <http://home.sprintmail.com/~jeffnkari/USAS/>

Sandy Banks



NEWS ITEM: 18 RETAILERS SUED FOR USING SWEATSHOPS ON AMERICAN SOIL

HUCK/KONOPACKI LABOR CARTOONS FEB

Organizing in Texas

Fellow Worker Joshua freeze will be representing the IWW as a speaker at a May 1 rally being organized by the University Staff Association at the state capitol building in Austin. Several IWW members work at the University of Texas, and have been challenging deplorable working conditions there.

California TAs May Resume Strike

University of California Teaching Assistants suspended their 8-campus strike Dec. 8 in exchange for administrators' agreement to negotiate union recognition and discuss working conditions. However, administrators have refused to engage in substantive discussions or to recognize the UAW-affiliated union which has won recognition elections across the UC system.

The Association of Graduate Student Employees is urging the state legislature to head off a renewal of the four day strike which threw classes and the state's premier public university system into turmoil.

The UC system, the largest public university system in the United States with 129,000 undergraduate students, depends on graduate student workers, who carry out the majority of teaching in many departments. While they are paid

for no more than 20 hours per week, many TAs find themselves putting in 30 to 40 hours weekly in order to meet the increasingly heavy teaching loads.

TAs have organized and sought union recognition since the early 1960s. The present campaign has been underway for the last 15 years. While the Public Employees Relations Board, which administers the state's Higher Education Employee Relations Act, originally backed the University's contention that graduate employees were not entitled to union

recognition, last year, the Board reversed course and upheld their right to organize. The University has defied PERB rulings, and refused to recognize the Union or begin negotiations.

A new strike seems inevitable. UC stonewalling "has renewed our resolve and increased the likelihood of the disruption of undergraduate classes throughout the UC system," said Marty Ota-Flez, a union member at UC Irvine.

Jon Bekken

Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

Real Democracy! All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has just one (modestly) paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled by referendum. IWW workplaces and branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

To Join mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$1,000: \$5 per month; Income \$1,000-2,000: \$10 monthly; Over \$2,000: Dues \$15. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.00

☐ I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
☐ I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.
 Name: _____ Occupation: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State/Prov.: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker